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For Immediate Release...

Corrections News

January 7, 2008

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January 8, 2008,
WERDCC in
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celebration for its
10th anniversary.

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Warden Cyndi Prudden

10th Anniversary Celebration Planned at WERDCC

On Tuesday, January 8, 2008, Women's Eastern Reception, Diagnostic and Correctional Center (WERDCC) in Vandalia will hold a celebration for its 10th anniversary. The ceremony will be at 1:30 p.m. in the WERDCC visiting room. The event is open to the news media.

Missouri Department of Corrections Director Larry Crawford, Division of Adult Institutions (DAI) Director Tom Clements, WERDCC Warden Cyndi Prudden, State Sen. Wes Shoemyer, D-Clarence, State Rep. Terry Witte, D-Vandalia and Vandalia City Administrator Alan Winders will speak at the celebration. Shoemyer will present a Senate resolution, and Witte will present a House resolution. Former WERDCC Warden Al Luebbers also plans to speak.

"I'm proud of our staff, and their dedication to public safety," Warden Prudden said. "We will recognize 102 staff members who have worked here since it opened. Our retirees will also be recognized, along with the 12 employees who have died since 1998. Our employees of the year will also be recognized."

WERDCC received its first offenders in January 1998. The facility can house up to 2,076 female offenders and certified juveniles. WERDCC is the intake center for females entering the Department from all 114 counties and St. Louis City. It also includes a permanent general offender population. The Reception and Diagnostic unit processes female offenders for assignment to permanent population at WERDCC, Chillicothe Correctional Center or the community release center treatment programs in St. Louis or Kansas City.

WERDCC has 511 FTE (full-time employees) and another 100 contract employees who work in medical and substance abuse. WERDCC is one of the largest employers in Audrain County, with an annual payroll of \$15,121,372. Prudden said the institution appreciates the support it has received from the community.

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